

REMARKS:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-8 are amended for clarification. No new matter is added. Thus, claims 1-8 are pending and under consideration. The outstanding rejections are traversed below.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner states that the specification of the present application is objected to and should be corrected to clarify the invention.

A Substitute Specification is enclosed to overcome the objections pertaining to the specification.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 1-2 and 6 are objected to due to informalities.

Claims 1-2 and 6 have been amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112¶2:

In item 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph to due to informalities. Claims 1-8 have been amended to overcome the §112 second paragraph rejections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Examiner states that claims 1-8 would be allowable if the §112 second paragraph rejections and the objections to the claims were corrected. As mentioned above, all the §112 second paragraph rejections and the objections to the claims have been amended. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims 1-8.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is

requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Sept. 16 2004

By: Mark J. Henry
Mark J. Henry
Registration No. 36,162

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

IEEE-1394 STANDARDIZED APPARATUS AND
CONFIGURATION METHOD THEREIN

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention in general relates to an IEEE-1394 standardized apparatus and a configuration method.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] ~~As Generally, for purposes of~~ image data or sound data transmission-system, ~~there exists the isochronous transmission system-systems, which is-are~~ suitable for receiving and reproducing ~~data-simultaneously~~ synchronized image and sound data, can be used. As a serial bus standard characterized by isochronous transmission, ~~there exists the~~ IEEE-1394 standard can be used.

[0003] At a developing stage of ~~developing~~ applications based on this standard, a bus analyzer is occasionally connected to an IEEE-1394 serial bus so that various operations on the IEEE-1394 serial bus are analyzed. ~~At this time~~ Accordingly, in order to adapt topology of the application development environment to an actual application usage environment, it is important that development tools, such as a bus analyzer, do not work-operate as a node.

[0004] ~~In~~ According to the IEEE-1394 standard, a PHY layer (physical layer) ~~which-that~~ does not work-operate as a node is not defined. For this reason, a PHY controller LSI having PHY function defined by the IEEE-1394 standard is generally mounted ~~into~~ to the bus analyzer which satisfies the IEEE-1394 standard.

[0005] However, when the bus analyzer mounted with the PHY controller LSI is connected to the IEEE-1394 serial bus, it is recognized as a node when topology is structured. For this reason, ~~there arises a problem~~ arises as that the topology of the application development environment cannot be adapted to the actual application usage environment. Moreover, in the case of an application in which the topology is restricted, ~~there arises a problem that~~ arises because a bus analyzer cannot be connected to the IEEE-1394 serial bus.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] It is an object of this invention to provide an apparatus, which can be connected ~~to~~ with an IEEE1394 serial bus without ~~recognizing the apparatus being recognized~~ as a node. Moreover, another object of the present invention is to provide a configuration method for connecting the apparatus ~~to~~ with the IEEE-1394 serial bus without ~~recognizing the apparatus being recognized~~ as a node.

[0007] The apparatus of the present invention according to the IEEE-1394 standard has a normal configuration control section which controls the configuration so that the apparatus is recognized as a node, and a non-node configuration control section which controls configuration so that the apparatus is not recognized as a node. The normal configuration control section obtains a self ~~phisical~~ physical ID and transmits a self_ID packet in a self-identification phase. The non-node configuration control section neither obtains a self ~~phisical~~ physical ID nor transmits a self_ID packet in the self-identification phase, but transmits an ident_done signal received from a child node directly to a parent node.

[0008] In addition, the apparatus of this invention has a PHY configuration packet output section ~~for, such that~~ when the apparatus becomes a route node in a tree identification phase in a non-node mode, ~~carrying the PHY configuration packet output section carries out normal configuration and outputting-outputs~~ a PHY configuration packet for resetting an apparatus of another node as a route node.

[0009] The apparatus of this invention can be connected ~~to~~ with the IEEE-1394 serial bus ~~while-where~~ the apparatus is not recognized as a node by ~~another-other~~ apparatuses connected ~~to~~ with the IEEE-1394 serial bus.

[0010] In the configuration method of the present invention according to the IEEE-1394 standard, when a non-node mode that an apparatus is not recognized as a node is specified and the apparatus is not a route node, the apparatus neither obtains a ~~phisical~~ physical ID nor transmits a self_ID packet but transmits an ident_done signal received from a child node directly to a parent node.

[0011] Further, when the apparatus becomes a route node regardless of the non-node mode, the apparatus obtains a ~~phisical~~ physical ID and transmits a self_ID packet, and generates to output a PHY configuration packet for resetting an apparatus of another node as a route node.

In a normal mode that the apparatus is recognized as a node, the apparatus obtains a self ~~physical~~ physical ID and transmits a self_ID packet.

[0012] According to the method of this invention, the apparatus can be connected ~~to~~ with the IEEE-1394 serial bus ~~while~~ where the apparatus is not recognized as a node by another apparatuses connected ~~to~~ with the IEEE-1394 serial bus.

[0013] ~~Other objects and features of this invention will become apparent from the following description with reference to the accompanying drawings.~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] Additional objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description of the embodiments in conjunction with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:

FigFIG. 1 is a functional block diagram showing an apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention-;

FigFIG. 2 is a packet configuration diagram for explaining a configuration of a PHY configuration packet generated in the apparatus of the present invention-;

FigFIG. 3 is a block diagram showing one example of a PHY layer control LSI to which the apparatus of the present invention is applied-;

FigFIG. 4 is a chart showing a list of input/output terminals of the PHY layer control LSI to which the apparatus of the present invention is applied-;

FigFIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing one example of a tree including the apparatus of the present invention-; and

FigFIG. 6 is a flow chart showing a configuration method according to the embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0015] One preferred embodiment of the present invention will be explained below with reference to the attached drawings. The apparatus of the present invention will be explained first. The block diagram in-~~FigFIG. 1~~ shows the functional configuration of the apparatus according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0016] ~~This~~The apparatus according to an aspect of the present invention conforms to the IEEE-1394 standard and has a 1394 signal input/output port section 1, a mode switching section 2, a non-node configuration control section 3, a normal configuration control section 4 and a PHY configuration packet output section 5. The 1394 signal input/output port section 1 has at least two input/output ports, i.e., a port 0 and a port 1 in the shown example in FIG. 1. Another apparatuses to become a parent node and a child node are connected ~~to~~with these input/output ports respectively.

[0017] When the 1394 signal input/output port section 1 has three or more ports and this apparatus is used in a non-node mode, namely, the apparatus is not ~~to be~~ recognized as a node after the completion of configuration, only two input/output ports are valid in order to avoid topological discrepancy. ~~Another~~According to an aspect of the present invention, other apparatuses ~~to become~~having a high order node (parent node) or a low order node (child node) are connected ~~to~~with the valid two input/output ports. After the completion of the configuration, in the case of a mode that the apparatus is recognized as a node (hereinafter, the normal mode), a number of the valid input/output ports is not limited to two.

[0018] The mode switching section 2 switches input/output among the 1394 signal input/output port section 1, the non-node configuration control section 3 and the normal configuration control section 4 based on mode switching signals 6a and 6b supplied as mode switching unit. Namely, at the time of the non-node mode, the mode switching section 2 enables input/output of the non-node configuration control section 3 with respect to the 1394 signal input/output port section 1, and disables input/output of the normal configuration control section 4.

[0019] A process of self-identification phase is occasionally passed from the non-node configuration control section 3 to the normal configuration control section 4 due to internal factor. In this case, after the passing of the process, the input/output of the normal configuration control section 4 is enabled, and the input/output of the non-node configuration control section 3 is disabled. The internal factor will be mentioned later.

[0020] In addition, at the time of the normal mode or in the case where the process is passed from the non-node configuration control section 3, the mode switching section 2 disables the input/output of the non-node configuration control section 3 with respect to the 1394 signal input/output port section 1. The mode switching section 2 enables the input/output of the normal configuration control section 4 with respect to the 1394 signal input/output port section 1.

[0021] The non-node configuration control section 3 controls configuration so that the apparatus is not recognized as a node in the non-node mode. That is, the non-node configuration control section 3 neither obtains a self ~~phisieal~~physical_ID nor transmits a self_ID packet in the self-identification phase, but transmits an ident_done signal received from a child node directly to a parent node. As a result, the apparatus is not recognized as a node by ~~another-other~~ apparatus connected ~~to-with~~ the IEEE-1394 serial bus.

[0022] However, when the apparatus becomes a route node in a tree identification phase, the non-node configuration control section 3 passes the process of the self-identification phase to the normal configuration control section 4. This is an example of the above-mentioned internal factor. At this time, the non-node configuration control section 3 transmits the mode switching signal 6b based on the internal factor to the mode switching section 2.

[0023] When taking over the process of the self-identification phase from the non-node configuration control section 3, the normal configuration control section 4 controls configuration so that the apparatus is recognized as a route node. That is, the normal configuration control section 4 obtains a self ~~phisieal~~physical_ID and transmits a self_ID packet. Moreover, the normal configuration control section 4 transmits a signal which permits output of the PHY configuration packet to the PHY configuration packet output section 5.

[0024] In addition, the normal configuration control section 4 controls configuration so that the apparatus is recognized as a node in the normal mode ~~similarly-similar~~ to ~~another-other~~ apparatuses on the IEEE-1394 serial bus. ~~Namely~~More specifically, the normal configuration control section 4 obtains a self ~~phisieal~~physical_ID and transmits a self_ID packet.

[0025] When receiving a PHY configuration packet output permission signal from the normal configuration control section 4, the PHY configuration packet output section 5 generates a PHY configuration packet and outputs ~~it-the~~the PHY configuration packet to the normal configuration control section 4. The PHY configuration packet is generated so as to reset another apparatus of a node other than the apparatus as a route node.

[0026] One example of the PHY configuration packet is shown in ~~Fig~~FIG. 2. In ~~Fig~~FIG. 2, when the third field 11 from the left, namely, a field on the right of a ~~phisieal~~physical_ID (in the drawing, phy_ID) field 12 is set (in the drawing, "R"), the apparatus which receives this packet sets force root bit. Next, reconfiguration is carried out, thereby restructuring the topology.

[0027] ~~At the time of~~During the reconfiguration, the apparatus which received the PHY configuration packet easily becomes a route node because output of parent_notify signal is

delayed in the tree identification phase. Therefore, an apparatus other than the apparatus is set as a route node.

[0028] The mode switching signal 6a is generated ~~by selecting upon selection~~ by a user of the apparatus as to whether or not the apparatus is recognized as a node. Namely, the mode switching signal 6a is generated based on an external factor. For example, the mode switching signal 6a is supplied from the outside via a not shown external terminal. The mode switching signal 6b is generated based on this internal factor.

[0029] The block diagram in ~~FigFIG.~~ 3 shows one example of the PHY layer control LSI to which the apparatus having the above structure is applied. This LSI has an arbitration control section 21, two cable ports 22 and 23, a receipt data decoder 24, a transmit data encoder 25, a phase lock loop (PLL) 26, a twisted pair bias generator 27, a link interface input/output 28 and a cable power status section 29. The arbitration control section 21, the cable ports 22 and 23, the receipt data decoder 24 and the transmit data encoder 25 correspond to the structure of the part shown in ~~FigFIG.~~ 1.

[0030] In the example shown in ~~FigFIG.~~ 3, a Non_node terminal 20 is provided as one of input terminals. The Non_node terminal 20 is connected ~~to-with~~ the arbitration control section 21. The mode switching signal 6a (see ~~FigFIG.~~ 1) which is generated based on external factor is supplied to the Non_node terminal 20. Since the other input/output terminals are the same as those in a conventional PHY layer control LSI, the list and description of the input/output terminals are shown in ~~FigFIG.~~ 4, and the explanation of the respective terminals is omitted.

[0031] The schematic diagram in ~~FigFIG.~~ 5 shows one example of a tree configuration composed of four apparatuses including the apparatus having the above structure. In the example shown in ~~FigFIG.~~ 5, an apparatus 31 of a node A is a route node, and its ~~phisical~~ physical ID (in the drawing, phy_ID) is "2".

[0032] An apparatus 32 of a node B and an apparatus 33 of a node C are connected ~~to-with~~ a port 1 and a port 2 of the node A, respectively. The node B is a leaf node, and its ~~phisical~~ physical ID is "0". The node C is a branch node, but a ~~phisical~~ physical ID is not given to the node C. An apparatus 34 of a node D is connected ~~to-with~~ a child port of the node C, and it is a leaf node. A ~~phisical~~ physical ID of the node D is "1".

[0033] The apparatus 33 of the node C is the apparatus having the structure shown in ~~FigFIG.~~ 1, and is, for example, a bus analyzer. The apparatus of the node C is not recognized as a node by the other apparatuses (node A, node B and node C). Namely, in the tree structure

shown in ~~Fig~~FIG. 5, two leaf nodes (B and D) are connected ~~to~~with the node A in appearance. The bus analyzer is used to be connected ~~to~~with IEEE-1394 serial bus to analyze various operations on the IEEE-1394 serial bus when applications are developed.

[0034] Next, a configuration method of the present invention will be explained below. ~~Fig~~FIG. 6 is a flow chart showing the configuration method according to the present invention. When configuration is started, ~~at first a process~~an operation for judging a mode specified by user's setting (external factor) is executed (~~step~~operation S1). When the result of the judgment is the non-node mode, the mode switching section 2 enables the input/output of the non-node configuration control section 3. As a result, the non-node configuration control section 3 is connected ~~to~~with the 1394 signal input/output port section 1.

[0035] Next, the IEEE-1394 serial bus is initialized (~~step~~operation S2) and the tree is identified (~~step~~operation S3). Thereafter, a judgment is made as to whether or not the apparatus is the route node in the tree identification process (~~step~~operation S4). When the apparatus is not the route node, a non-node self-identification process (~~step~~operation S5) is executed, and the configuration is completed. Details of the non-node self-identification process will be mentioned later.

[0036] Meanwhile, when the apparatus is the route node, the internal factor of the mode switching is generated. For this reason, the self-identification phase process is passed to the normal configuration control section 4. Therefore, the mode switching section 2 enables the input/output of the normal configuration control section 4, and connects the normal configuration control section 4 ~~to~~with the 1394 signal input/output port section 1. The input/output of the non-node configuration control section 3 is disabled.

[0037] The normal configuration control section 4 executes a normal self-identification process (~~step~~operation S6) so that the apparatus is recognized as a node. This normal self-identification process is the same as the conventional process. Thereafter, the normal configuration control section 4 permits the PHY configuration packet output section 5 to output the PHY configuration packet. The PHY configuration packet output section 5 outputs the PHY configuration packet (see ~~Fig~~FIG. 2) based on the output permission (~~step~~operation S7). As a result, the above-mentioned configuration method is carried out repeatedly until the topology is structured without recognizing the apparatus as a node, and the topology is tried to be reconstructed.

[0038] When the normal mode is specified by the external factor, the mode switching section 2 enables the input/output of the normal configuration control section 4, and connects the normal configuration control section 4 ~~to~~with the 1394 signal input/output port section 1. Thereafter, the IEEE-1394 serial bus is initialized (~~step-operation~~ S8), and a tree identification process (~~step-operation~~ S9) and a normal self-identification process similar to the conventional process (~~step-operation~~ S10) are executed successively, and the configuration is completed.

[0039] Here, the bus initializing process and the tree identification process at operations steps S8 and S9 are the same as the bus initializing process (operation~~step~~ S2) and the tree identification process (~~step-operation~~ S3) in the non-node mode. Therefore, in the non-node configuration control section 3 and the normal configuration control section 4 shown in ~~Fig~~FIG. 1, one hardware can be commonly used for executing the bus initializing process and the tree identification process.

[0040] Next, details of the non-node self-identification process are explained below. For easy description, the explanation will refer to the tree structure shown in ~~Fig~~FIG. 5 as an example, but the present invention is not limited to this tree structure. The node A which becomes a route node in the tree identification process in the non-node mode (~~Fig~~FIG. 6, ~~step-operation~~ S3) passes the control to a child node connected ~~to~~with the smallest-numbered port. In the example shown in ~~Fig~~FIG. 5, the node A passes the control to the node B connected to the port 1.

[0041] The node B is not connected ~~to~~with a node other than the node A. Namely, a child node does not exist for the node B. Therefore, the node B obtains "0" as a self ~~physical~~physical_ID, and transmits a self_ID packet. Thereafter, the node B transmits an ident_done signal to the node A as a parent node.

[0042] When receiving the ident_done signal from the node B, the node A passes the control to a child node connected ~~to~~with a port with a number next smaller than that of the node A. In the example shown in ~~Fig~~FIG. 5, the node A passes the control to the node C connected ~~to~~with the port 2. The node C is also connected ~~also~~to~~to~~with the node D as well as the node A. Therefore, the node C passes the control to the node D.

[0043] A child node does not exist in the node D. Moreover, the node D receives one self_ID packet. Therefore, the node D obtains "1" as the self ~~phisical~~ physical_ID, and transmits a self_ID packet. Thereafter, the node D transmits an ident_done signal to the node C as a parent node.

[0044] Since the non-node mode is specified in the node C, when receiving the ident_done signal from the node D, the node C transmits the ident_done signal directly to the node A. Namely, in the non-node mode, the node C neither obtains a self ~~physical~~ physical_ID nor transmits a self_ID packet. In the normal mode, the node C obtains a self ~~physical~~ physical_ID and transmits a self_ID packet, and transmits an ident_done signal to the parent node.

[0045] When the node A as a route node receives the ident_done signal, which is generated by the node D, from the node C, it means that the node A receives the ident_done signals via all the ports. A number of the ident_done signals received by the node A is two. Therefore, the node A obtains "2" as the self ~~physical~~ physical_ID, and transmits the self_ID packet. As a result, the non-node self-identification process is completed. Since the node C does not have a ~~physical~~physical_ID, it is not recognized by the other nodes.

[0046] According to the above embodiment, the non-node configuration control section 3 and the normal configuration control section 4 are provided and output of ~~any one of them~~ both configurations can be selected. In the non-node mode, the non-node configuration control section 3 neither obtains a self ~~physical~~ physical_ID nor transmits a self_ID packet, but transmits the ident_done signal received from the child node directly to the parent node.

[0047] For this reason, the apparatus is not recognized as a node by the other nodes. Namely, the apparatus can be connected ~~to~~ with the IEEE-1394 serial bus while the apparatus is not recognized as a node by the other apparatuses. Therefore, when this apparatus is used as a bus analyzer, the apparatus is effective in the quality of the application system development and in reducing TAT.

[0048] The present invention is not limited to the above-mentioned embodiment, and its design can be variously changed. For example, in the structure shown in-~~Fig~~FIG. 3, the mode switching signal 6a is supplied to the Non_node terminal 20. However, a register for storing a result that the non-node mode or the normal mode is selected by a user is newly provided in the PHY layer control LSI, and the configuration may be carried out in one of the modes based on the value of the register.

[0049] According to the apparatus of the present invention, the apparatus has the normal configuration control section, which obtains the self ~~physical~~ physical_ID and transmits the self_ID packet so that the apparatus is recognized as a node, and the non-node configuration control section, which neither obtains the self ~~physical~~ physical_ID nor transmits the self_ID packet so that the apparatus is not recognized as a node, but transmits the ident_done signal

received from the child node directly to the parent node. For this reason, the apparatus can be connected ~~to~~with the IEEE-1394 serial bus while the apparatus is not recognized as a node by the other apparatuses connected ~~to~~with the IEEE-1394 serial bus.

[0050] According to the configuration method of the present invention, the apparatus, which is not to be recognized as a node in the non-node mode, neither obtains the self ~~physical~~ physical ID nor transmits the self_ID packet, and transmits the ident_node signal received from the child node directly to the parent node. Meanwhile, since the apparatus, which is recognized as a node in the normal mode, obtains the self ~~physical~~ physical ID and transmits the self_ID packet, the apparatus can be connected ~~to~~with the IEEE-1394 serial bus while the apparatus is not recognized as a node by the other apparatuses connected to the IEEE-194 serial bus.

[0051] Although the invention has been described with respect to a specific embodiment for a complete and clear disclosure, the appended claims are not to be thus limited but are to be construed as embodying all modifications and alternative constructions that may occur to one skilled in the art which fairly fall within the basic teaching herein set forth.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In the non-node, the apparatus neither obtains a self ~~physical~~physical_ID nor transmits a self_ID packet. Therefore, the apparatus is not recognized as a node in a self-identification phase. However, the apparatus, ~~but~~ transmits an indent_done signal received from a child node directly to a parent node. Moreover, when the apparatus becomes a route node in a tree identification phase in the non-node mode, after normal configuration, a PHY configuration packet output section outputs a PHY configuration packet for resetting an apparatus of another node as a route node. In a normal mode, the apparatus obtains a self ~~physical~~physical_ID and transmits a self_ID packet. Therefore, the apparatus is recognized as a node in the self-identification phase.